



AN EARTH LITURGY

Prelude:

Introit:

Call to Worship:

God created the sun, moon and stars,

And our hearts sing out in thanksgiving.

God created the lakes, rivers and oceans,

And our hearts sing out in thanksgiving.

God created the hills, mountains and valleys,

And our hearts sing out in thanksgiving.

God created the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and the animals that walk the earth,

And our hearts sing out in thanksgiving.

God's hand continues to create and recreate, revealing God's handiwork in places earlier unseen,

And our hearts continue to sing out in thanksgiving.

God calls us into the creative process, inviting us into partnership, opening to us the possibilities of life. Come, let us celebrate together, with joy and thanksgiving, as we share again the words of our United Church Creed:

A New Creed

VU 918

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

Nous croyons en Dieu

Qui a créé et qui continue à créer,

Qui est venu en Jésus, parole faite chair,

Pour réconcilier et renouveler,

Qui travaille en nous et parmi nous par son esprit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:
To celebrate God's presence,
To live with respect in creation,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

Dans la vie, dans la mort,
Et dans la vie au-delà de la mort,
Dieu est avec nous.
Nous ne sommes pas seuls.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Hymn: All Praise to You

VU 297

Prayer:

Every creature, every plant, every rock and grain of sand proclaims the glory of its Creator;
worships through colour, shape, scent and form,
a multi-sensory song of praise.
Creator God, may we join with the whole of your creation in praising you, our Creator through the fragrance and melody of our lives.
Amen!

Hymn: This Is God's Wondrous World VU 296

Time With The Children

The story of Old Turtle by Douglas Wood, (Duluth, Pfeifer-Hamilton: 1992), would be a good story for today.

or

A Creation Story by Carolyn Pogue, (Toronto, UCPH: 1998)

or

What is God? by Etan Boritzer, (Firefly: 1990)

A Prayer For the Care of Creation **VU 311**

O God, the only source of life and energy and wealth, defend our planet earth.

Teach us to conserve and not to squander the riches of nature, to use aright the heritage of former generations, and to plan for the welfare of our children's children.

Renew our wonder, awaken our concern, and make us better stewards and more careful tenants of the world you lend us as our home.

Hear us, O God, our creator and redeemer, in the name of Christ.

Amen!

Hymn: Touch The Earth Lightly **VU 307**

Scripture: Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3
*This could be abbreviated or
offered in multiple voices.*

Psalm 148 VU 870 (sung)
or 871

or

Psalm 8 VU 730
(sung)
or 732

*A good place to start a sermon/reflection unpacking
the notion of dominion over, and what
a shift to stewardship of, or shared life/existence
might look like.*

Matthew 5: 1-12
The Beatitudes

or

Matthew 6: 5-15
Lord's Prayer

or

Matthew 7: 24-29

Building on a firm foundation

Chorale Selection:

Sermon//Reflection

Hymn: Into the Unshaped Silence VU 305

Minute for Mission: 'Introducing Practical Hope'

Invitation to the Offering:

Offertory:

Presentation of the Offering: For The Gift of Creation
VU 538

Prayer of Dedication:

God of abundance,

We offer these gifts in gratitude:

gratitude for your watchful presence,

gratitude for your constant support,

gratitude for your gentle prodding,

and gratitude for your love without condition

and acceptance without limit.

May we always have thankful hearts and giving hands.

Amen!

A Spirit-filled Litany:

Holy Spirit, giver of life, creative breath of God through whom this world was breathed into existence and is sustained,

**Blow through the parched earth of our existence, and
breathe Your Life into our lives.**

Spirit of truth and wisdom through ages past and present who guides God's people into all truth,

Blow through the parched earth of our knowledge, and breathe your Truth into our lives.

Holy Spirit, counsellor, sent by God; convicting, comforting, guiding and reassuring

Blow through the parched earth of our faith, and breathe peace, love and reassurance into our lives.

Holy Spirit, enabler of your servants and prophets through the ages. Source of authority, wisdom and power

Blow through the parched earth of our lives and breathe into them Your Spirit's power

Holy Spirit, indwelling presence of God, empowering the lives of the apostles at Pentecost and the Church today,

Blow through the parched earth of our witness, and empower our lives in the service of your kin-dom

Lord's Prayer (a paraphrase):

VU 916

Eternal Spirit, earth-maker, pain-bearer, life-giver, source of all that is and all that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen!

Hymn: The Earth and All Who Breathe VU 295

Commissioning and Benediction:

Not in the high chambers of the mighty, but in the hidden catacombs; Not in the corridors of power, But in the crannies of powerlessness; is the church called to be and to live, to work and to struggle.

Though the cause of evil may, at times prosper, may we continue to dream and work together, and not get weary ...

And the God of the downtrodden, the suffering servant, and the quickening fire of the Holy Spirit

go before us and with us,

to strengthen, empower and sustain us,

now and in the hours of struggle and testing,

'til one day, we shall overcome!

Chorale Response:

VU 454

May God who creates you give you light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy;

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

Postlude:

*** *The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication were written by Bill Thomas*

*** *The Minute for Mission was written by Wilf Bean, with editorial assistance provided by the Environmental Working Group*

*** *The Opening Prayer and Spirit-filled Litany were found at www.faithandworship.com*

*** *The Commissioning and Benediction were written by Reuel Norman O. Marigza on the occasion of the 22nd General Convention of The National Council of Churches in The Philippines.*